

**(Might Be Better If It Did)****'Big' News Doesn't Go Unnoticed**

By Lois Martin

Not for a moment should city folks regard us as unapprised in state and national events. True, we're tied up with local goings-on. But far be it from us to let our minds slacken to dullness.

When it comes to current events, not much slips by us. We're bright as a dollar down here, though that's not much of a recommendation these days, according to the news.

Still we absorb the fast-breaking bulletins, mull them over in our minds and relentlessly come forward with observations. Take last week, for instance. All manner of happenings were brought to our attention.

Mr. Blackwell, a man who surrendered the name his mother gave him for one that would make him famous, said Dolly Parton was the worst-dressed of all of us. I was relieved. A lot of us fear he'll see us on Saturday mornings. Instead poor Dolly headed the hiss list. I know at least one person who'd consider her faults to be assets.

Bobby Orr's number was elevated to the ceiling of Boston Garden, giving grown men a chance for a good cry. So did the Celtics. Gentleman Jim Rice has a new haircut to go along with his mem-

bership among the uniquely prosperous. And Ned Martin's got a job announcing the Sox game. Hated to think of him alone somewhere with his microphone not plugged in.

The Shah's been having a devil of a time. One's popularity is apparently precarious at best. All he's got out of the riots thus far are sound vacation plans.

Out in Oregon a married couple that met in court over a first-of-its-kind rape suit rendezvoused over the weekend. They're speaking to each other again, but not until they'd had the entire nation involved in their fight. Their cooing knew no bounds after the reunion. See the good to come from talking things out.

A fresher, scarier report was uttered on the dangers of smoking. The tobacco industry said the announcement was made by a man who used to smoke three packs a day. Seems to be lack of coordination in governmental policy on smoking. President Carter says we can count on him to support the large industry and Joe Califano is just as firm about encouraging people not to smoke.

Wholesale food prices went up eight per cent in December. That's no news flash for people who've splurged on a pound of hamburger. Before long there'll be car pools to the gas station. But the consumers aren't persuaded of the need for greater cost. We've grown cynical. Money-makers say the weather was too wet, too hot, too cold. We don't listen now. We believe the bottom line is greed.

The Pope said women have an "eternal vocation" in motherhood. Mothers agree motherhood is the most important vocation but if it's the only one, some of us are going to have to start adopting spon to stay in business. He didn't offer guidelines for men. But we're hoping the person who gathered fatherhood is a hobby is dead wrong.

In the State House Gov. King, with his coat barely hung on the hook, battled with what could be considered a moral issue . . . if you evaluate a person's failings, are you also required to judge his contributions . . . or does an obvious, undeniable mistake negate assets. At any rate, one could conclude it's better to be off by two semesters than to be off by two universities.

There was a toy that didn't prove to be fun when children swallowed part of it. And Billy Carter lost prestige at the White House when he lost control of his mouth in the company of some people from Libya. SALT talks were well-seasoned, but men working on an oil rig lost their lives.

The tide of 1979 is coming in.

Perhaps the most titillating is the revelation that some women not too far from here are planning to pose for Playboy magazine. The rest of us refused to offer because it would seem to make us sex objects. We get enough of that doing the laundry.

**Harbormen  
Now Men  
Of Harmony**

"What's in a name?" asked Shakespeare.

Members of the Scituate Harbormen barbershop chorus decided that by another name they could sound as sweet.

So at their first meeting of the new year they voted to take a new name, the South Shore Men of Harmony.

The chorus was founded in Scituate in 1952 but in recent years meetings have been held in Norwell, Marshfield and Hanover. The growing membership comes from 15 towns between Quincy and Plymouth.

"We wanted a name that would represent the whole area. We didn't want to give the impression we were only for Scituate residents," explained chorus president Leo Harrison of Norwell.

Harrison said that the singing group hopes to increase its membership 25% this year to nearly 80 men.

"There will be some special open house nights, but each weekly meeting is open to the public, too," he said.

The South Shore Men of Harmony meet each Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Conway Building, Rte. 53 at Rte. 139, Hanover.

The organization is a chapter of the Society for the Preservation & Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.



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**Bee Line**

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